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Chopper flies to the rescue

Dramatic scene in Kingston, Ont., as worker trapped on construction crane amid massive blaze

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CHRISTIAN BAILE PULLS FROM A LONG LINEAGE OF LONG-CON ARTISTS IN LATEST FILM

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Mayoral debate breaks out at budget meeting

Gloves come off.

2014 election season unofficially kicks off as candidates come out of the woodwork to have their say



BERNICE PONTANILLA

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An unofficial kickoff to next year's mayoral election took place during Tuesday's city council meeting, as several would-be candidates shared their thoughts on the 2014 budget.

Gord Steeves, the ex-city councillor who declared his intention to run this past October, said he understands the difficulty in coming up with a

budget and that council must "play the cards that you are dealt."

"One thing that does concern me is debt," said Steeves, adding that when he was first on council, debt was declining.

Steeves said other levels of government, such as the province and school divisions, are also increasing taxes and council must have "as low an impact on our citizens as we can have."

Steeves was followed by Mayor Sam Katz's 2010 rival Judy Wasylycia-Leis, who is herself mulling a run next October.

Wasylycia-Leis said budgets are "blueprints for the future" and must address current fiscal needs.

"But it must do more than that — it must clearly show how we go forward as a city," she said.

In the last election, Wasylycia-Leis famously said city property taxes, which had been frozen for many years, would likely have to go up, while Katz said he wouldn't raise taxes — in his first year in office.

This led to an exchange between Coun. Scott Fielding, also considering a run for mayor, and Katz.

Fielding asked Katz if he felt he should apologize to citizens for raising taxes for three of the four years.

Katz said he "made it very clear" that he would not raise property taxes until after looking "under every rock to see if we can find savings or revenue."

And who led and championed that property-tax increase? None other than the chair of finance, Coun. Scott Fielding.



Gord Steeves, ex-St. Vital councillor and mayoral candidate, addresses city council during Tuesday's special meeting on the 2014 budget. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO



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City council approves budget, 2.95 per cent property tax hike

Santa or Scrooge?

Mayor says identifying non-essential staff for leave is 'first priority'

 **BERNICE PONTANILLA**
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The city's 2014 operating budget squeaked by in a narrow 9-7 vote at Tuesday's special city council meeting.

Mayor Sam Katz said in an election year "the easiest thing to do is vote against it when you know it's going to get approved so you can be the nice guy."

However, he added the city's infrastructure needs are great.

"There is no other choice but to do that. We've looked at all the other options," said Katz. "Raising property taxes is not a fun thing."

The 2.95 per cent tax hike includes one per cent for the Local Street Renewal Reserve, a dedicated fund that was first approved in the 2013 budget, another one per cent for a new Regional Street Renewal Reserve and 0.95 per cent gen-

How council voted

The operating budget:

- **For:** Katz, Browaty, Mayes, Nordman, Pagtakhan, Steen, Swandel, Sharma, Wyatt
- **Against:** Eadie, Fielding, Gerbasi, Havixbeck, Orlukow, Smith, Vandal

The capital budget:

- **For:** Katz, Browaty, Mayes, Nordman, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steen, Swandel, Vandal, Wyatt, Sharma
- **Against:** Eadie, Fielding, Gerbasi, Havixbeck, Orlukow

eral revenues.

A last-ditch effort by Coun. Dan Vandal (St. Boniface) to restore \$50,000 in funding for museums failed 5-11.

Another controversial aspect of the budget, the 3.5-day forced unpaid leave for Christmas of 2014, also survived.

The city's 2014 capital budget was approved in an 11-5 vote.



Mayor Sam Katz and Coun. Russ Wyatt chat during Tuesday's special council meeting on the 2014 budget, which passed in a 9-7 vote for operating, 11-5 for capital. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Look Manitoba, we know how to count: StatsCan

Statistics Canada is disputing a suggestion by the Manitoba government that it missed 18,000 people in the last census — a discrepancy the province says will cost it \$500 million in federal transfer payments.

Manitoba Finance Minister Jennifer Howard has said the 2011 flood, one of the largest

in the province's history, contributed to inaccurate population figures.

Since federal transfer payments are based on population, the discrepancy translates into a loss of \$100 million a year, she said, and could make it impossible to fulfil the government's promise to balance the books by

2016.

Jane Badets, a director general with Statistics Canada, said Manitoba actually had one of the highest response rates in Canada in the 2011 census. Still, the agency expects to miss a certain number of people, she added.

Statistics Canada uses a complex methodology to

make up for any people who might be missed — something Badets said was agreed to by all provinces. Using that system, the agency actually added almost 22,000 people to Manitoba's count in 2011.

Howard said she's not interested in getting into a "methodological argument." The province knows its popu-

lation is growing at a faster rate than the agency has acknowledged, she said.

"It's counter to what we know in terms of the number of people filing taxes in Manitoba. That's gone up at a higher rate than StatsCan is saying the census has. There is an error here and we need it to be corrected." THE CANADIAN PRESS

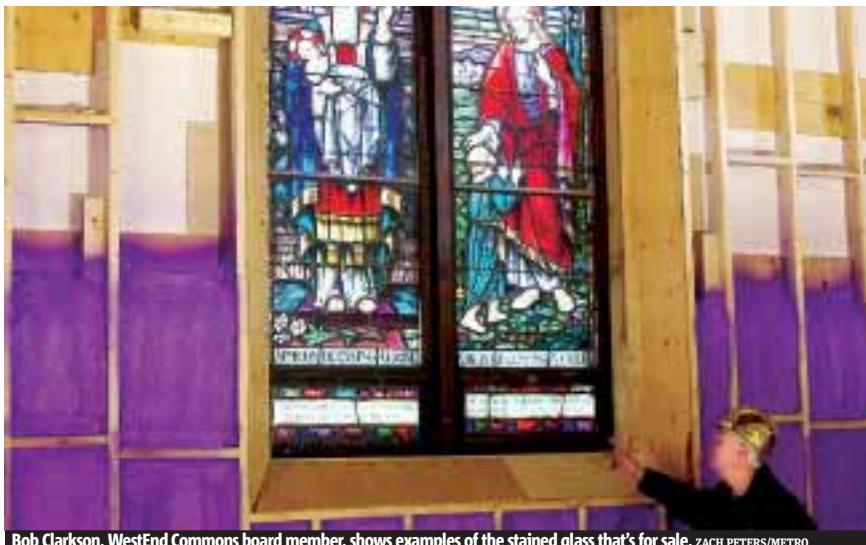
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NEWS





Bob Clarkson, WestEnd Commons board member, shows examples of the stained glass that's for sale. ZACH PETERS/METRO

Church sells off stained glass

St. Matthew's Church.

Affordable housing takes over former place of worship

ZACH
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If you have a historian, church leader, or simply a lover of colourful glass still left on your holiday gift list, then you are in luck. St. Matthews Church is selling their

stained glass windows.

The stained glass, designed and installed in the church in 1946 and 1947, is being sold off as a majority of the building is being renovated into an apartment block.

St. Matthews Non Profit Housing Inc., a partnership of two of the congregations that worship in St. Matthews Church, is building the West-End Commons, a 26-unit affordable housing apartment block inside the shell of the church.

"We did not want to change the general exterior appearance of the building," said Bob Clark-

son, St. Matthew's Anglican Church treasurer, and WestEnd Commons board member. "So the stained glass was removed so that we could create proper windows for the apartments."

Many of the smaller pieces of stained glass have already sold, Clarkson said, and he estimates the remaining windows that are for sale to be about eight to 10 feet tall.

"The pieces of coloured glass that (don't sell) will be taken apart and remade into a mosaiced half-wall that will be on the second floor of the commons," said Clarkson.

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Selinger knew Melnick misled the legislature

Premier Greg Selinger said Tuesday he did not go public with the knowledge that one of his ministers misled the legislature about a staged immigration debate.

Instead, he waited 18 months as the provincial ombudsman investigated former immigration minister Christine Melnick.

"Relatively early on, I was aware of the fact that she may have issues with information she put on the public record," Selinger said.

"The ombudsman had asked for that information and we wanted him to complete his investigation."

Selinger said he had no idea at the time that the probe would take as long as it did, and didn't want to "interfere" with the investigation.

Tuesday was the first time Selinger commented on ombudsman Mel Holley's report

that was released last week.

The report revealed that Melnick had in fact told a senior bureaucrat to invite immigrants and immigrant service groups to the legislature on April 19, 2012, to witness a debate in which Melnick criticized the federal government's move to take over some immigration programs.

The day before the debate, Melnick's assistant deputy minister, Ben Rempel, had issued an email to government-funded immigrant service agencies telling them of the event and saying that people should feel free to come, even if it meant taking the afternoon off work. More than 400 people packed the public gallery and an overflow room.

The revelation contradicted what Melnick told the legislature last year and has prompted opposition calls

Longtime denial

When Melnick appeared before a budget estimates committee in May 2012, she denied being behind the plan.

- Melnick was one of three cabinet ministers demoted to the backbench in October. Selinger said the ombudsman's probe was a factor.

for an inquiry.

The Tory Opposition immediately accused the government of politicizing the civil service and rounding up immigrants to orchestrate a show of support for the government. It also said government-funded agencies and immigrants would feel pressured to obey the request to attend. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

24-year-old charged

Man arrested in drug investigation

A man has been arrested after police found guns and drugs in two Winnipeg homes.

Monday, at about 4:35 p.m., Winnipeg police pulled over a Chrysler Sebring and took a man and a woman into custody as part of an ongoing drug investigation.

Within the hour police searched two residences where they say they found 6.5 ounces of cocaine, 14 tablets of Xanax, and a loaded handgun. **METRO**

Three teens arrested

Grocery store heist foiled

Three teens were arrested on Dec. 16 after a grocery store on Dufferin Avenue was broken into Monday.

Winnipeg police said a large window was smashed and a cash register with money in it, along with a variety of food items, were stolen. The teens then rampaged through the store, causing almost \$5,000 in damage.

The three teens, aged 17 and 16, were tracked to a nearby home on Dufferin Avenue by the canine unit and were arrested. **METRO**

Armed robberies

4 suspects sought

Police are looking for four suspects in two different armed robbery cases that happened yesterday.

The first took place at a convenience store on Edision Avenue. Police describe both suspects as white, male, about 30 years old, and tall.

The second robbery took place at a gas station on Jefferson Avenue. Police are looking for two suspects, a man and a woman, who they believe are aboriginal.

Anyone with information can contact investigators at 204-986-6219. **METRO**

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Jacqueline Sanderson, whose daughter Simone, 23, was found murdered in the North End in September 2012, spoke to Metro Tuesday as police released new details about their investigation into her killing. CLARA BUELOW/METRO

Mother finds hope in new details of daughter's murder

Cold case. Police release new information on the killing of Simone Sanderson

 SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Jacqueline Sanderson is forever haunted by 1:17 a.m.

She'll never forget the exact time of day a little over a year ago when she peered out her peephole to find two homicide detectives waiting at her door with news of her missing daughter.

"I knew it had to be something about Simone," she said Tuesday, as those same detectives released new details about her daughter's murder in the hopes the information will jar someone's memory. "I'll never forget it ... it was devastating."



Simone Sanderson, 23. WPS HANDOUT

Simone was 23 when she went missing Aug. 26, 2012.

Her body was found a week later behind an abandoned car lot at Burrows Avenue and Main Street, and police now say they know for sure she was killed the same night she went missing or early the next morning.

Jacqueline describes her

daughter as a "friendly and very sociable person" who had moved back in with her just a few months before her death, following a break up with her fiancé.

Jacqueline points to that rough patch as what led Simone to start hanging out with a "different sort of crowd", and to a lifestyle police now say may have something to do with her murder.

And while some of the details about her daughter's last days were hard to hear, Jacqueline hopes its release and any information it brings will help thaw the cold case and bring some closure for her other children and Simone's now two-year-old son.

"We want him to have an answer about what happened to his mom," she said. "Rather than him having to grow up with something that is blank and not filled in."

"Somebody has to know something. I'm not going to give up on the hope."



Det. Sgt. Wade McDonald and Det. Sgt. Marc Philippot of the WPS homicide unit stand at a memorial set up at the spot where Simone Sanderson, 23, was found dead in September 2012. CLARA BUELOW/METRO

Updates

The new details from Winnipeg Police:

- Sanderson was involved in the city's sex trade and regularly used illicit drugs.
- Sanderson was killed on the evening of Aug. 26, 2012, or early the next morning.
- Sanderson used online dating sites under a variety of aliases to meet potential clients.
- Sanderson frequently met potential sex trade clients in the same area where her body was ultimately found.
- Sanderson was wearing a black sports bra and pink shorts at the time of her death.

Investigation

Why release the info now?

More than a year after her body was found behind an abandoned North End car lot, police are releasing new details about the murder of Simone Sanderson.

Detective Sergeant Wade McDonald, who has been working the case since the 23-year-old's body was found near the corner of Burrows Avenue and Main Street Sept. 2, 2012, hopes the information will help police bring answers to Sanderson's family.

"Simone was a mother, she was a daughter, and a granddaughter," he said. "We want to bring some sort of closure for the family and ultimately solve this."

The information, which includes details on Sanderson's drug use, her involvement in the sex trade, and her use of online dating sites to hook up with clients, was released Tuesday.

Anyone with information about who she was with that night should call police at 204-986-6508 or Winnipeg Crime Stoppers at 204-786-TIPS.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

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Reporter rejects Ford's 'apology'

Defamation.

Toronto mayor's statement not enough to halt lawsuit

Rob Ford's apology Tuesday for his televised comments about Daniel Dale failed to satisfy the Toronto Star reporter, who said he is going ahead with a defamation lawsuit against the Toronto mayor.

Ford read a statement in council saying he didn't intend to suggest Dale is a pedophile during a televised interview with Conrad Black.

"I never called Mr. Dale a pedophile," Ford said. "I have never used that word to describe Mr. Dale. I do not believe Mr. Dale is a pedophile nor did I intend to suggest that in my comments."

Ford said he apologizes if his "actual words" have caused Dale any harm or personal offence. The mayor called it "unfortunate" that a word he never said has been "ascribed" to him by the media.

Those remarks come a week after Ford initially said he stood by every word of the interview.

Dale served Ford last week

with a libel notice, demanding the mayor retract all of his false claims about what happened during an incident near Ford's house in May 2012 and issue an "unreserved, abject, complete apology."

Hours after Ford read his statement, Dale issued one of his own on Twitter, saying Ford's apology didn't even come close to what he sought.

"In his 'apology,' the mayor didn't retract anything at all," Dale wrote. "Instead, he blamed the media for its reasonable interpretation of his words."

During the interview with Black, which aired Dec. 9 on VisionTV, Ford claimed that Dale was in his backyard, "taking pictures of little kids."

"I don't want to say that word, but you start thinking what this guy is all about," Ford said.

If pedophile wasn't "that word," then someone should ask Ford what word he was suggesting, Dale said in an interview.

"I think to some extent now it doesn't matter what he was suggesting," Dale said.

"Whether it's his intent or not it's the impression that was left and I don't think it's because the media misinterpreted him."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The reluctant apologist

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has been forced to apologize for various behaviours and off-colour or insulting remarks since the so-called crack video scandal broke in May.

Dec. 17:

Reluctantly apologized for suggesting members of council were "corrupt." He initially withdrew his comments, but speaker Frances Nunziata said he needed to apologize. "Which one do you want, Madam Speaker?" Ford said sarcastically. "Like, 'Super, super, super, super, super, super, super sorry? So sorry?'"

Nov. 18:

Apologizes for running into Coun. Pam McConnell and knocking her over during a council meeting to strip the mayor of most of his powers. "It was a complete accident," Ford said.

Nov. 14:

Apologizes for crude remarks he made earlier that day in which he denied offering a former female

staffer oral sex, saying he had "more than enough to eat at home."

Nov. 8:

Appears ashamed while delivering a statement in response to a video that surfaced of a rambling, enraged Ford in a profanity-laced tirade in which he threatens to kill someone. "Obviously, I was extremely, extremely inebriated," he said.

Nov. 5:

Apologizes after admitting he had indeed smoked crack cocaine, likely in one of his drunken stupors.

Nov. 3:

Apologizes on his now-cancelled weekly radio show on Newstalk1010 for making mistakes including appearing in public while "hammered" and texting while driving.

May 27:

Apologizes to reporters for calling them a "bunch of maggots" during his radio show.



Toronto Mayor Rob Ford looks up to the press gallery as he concludes reading an apology to Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale on Tuesday.

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hollywood gets the cold shoulder

Actress Pamela Anderson and a co-creator of The Simpsons received a frosty reception in St. John's, N.L., on Tuesday as they tried to present a \$1-million incentive to help end the East Coast seal hunt.

Members of the Fish, Food and Allied Workers union, representing sealers, shouted questions at Anderson and Sam Simon during a chaotic news conference outside the office of the Canadian Sealers Association.

Simon offered a giant \$1-million cheque to the Canadian Sealers Association and said his intention is to respectfully encourage governments to legislate an end to seal licences while protecting aboriginal hunts.

In a letter dated Tuesday to Eldred Woodford, president of the Canadian Sealers Association, Simon said he's making the offer after the World Trade Organization upheld Europe's ban on imported seal products.

A dispute settlement panel said last month that aspects of the embargo undermine fair trade but can be justified



Actress Pamela Anderson and Sam Simon, producer of The Simpsons, talk to media outside the Canadian Sealers Association in St. John's, N.L., Tuesday. They attempted to deliver to the association a letter with a \$1-million cheque to end the annual commercial seal hunt, but the office remained closed. PAUL DALY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

on "public moral concerns" for animal welfare.

"With bans firmly in place across Europe, Russia, the U.S., and other countries, the writing is on the wall," says the letter.

"The seal trade is finished. Leaders as diverse as President

Obama and Vladimir Putin embrace this change, yet Canadian politicians remain too timid to initiate a buyout for fear of upsetting swing voters in Eastern Canada — and because they don't seem to care about individual sealers."

The association's office

was closed and no one from the association was present.

Ottawa and the provincial government announced they'll spend almost \$500,000 on a joint pilot project to offer seal meat at stores in Canada and overseas in the new year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rob Ford, royal baby and twerking. Google reveals year's top search terms

After dissecting the more than 40 billion queries submitted throughout 2013, Google Canada has declared Toronto's notorious Mayor Rob Ford as search term of the year.

While Facebook was the absolute top search of the year — as it has been for several years running — Ford topped Google's so-called trending list, representing the search terms that stood out most compared to previous web history.

Ford was followed by the late Glee actor Cory Monteith, who died of an overdose in July; Fast and Furious actor Paul Walker, who was killed in a car crash last month; murder victim Tim Bosma; and the Boston marathon.

Nelson Mandela, royal baby, North Korea, the Harlem Shake dance craze and Lac-Mégantic rounded out the Top 10 list.

One of the most interesting annual lists Google releases is a countdown of trending "what is" searches, which reveals what topics web searchers were

keen to learn more about.

"What is twerking" topped the list, and the provocative dance was also the No. 1 "how to" search. Fracking was second on the "what is" list, followed by ricin, bbbm, molly, bitcoin, Monsanto, Snapchat, EPO and DOMA.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Miley Cyrus "twerking" onstage with Robin Thicke during the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards in New York City. NEILSON BARNARD/GETTY IMAGES

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Chopper to the rescue as fire nears trapped crane operator

Danger. Police went door-to-door advising residents to evacuate; at least one home near the burning building caught fire

In a dramatic rescue Tuesday that drew a gasping crowd, a military helicopter swooped in to airlift a worker trapped on a construction crane above a massive fire in Kingston, Ont.

Police said the crane operator suffered only minor injuries after being stranded when the blaze broke out around 2:15 p.m. at an apartment building that was under construction.

John Ashie was working at his family's car dealership down the street when his father asked him about the black smoke that was rising above the neighbourhood.

The 22-year-old stepped onto the street just in time to see bright orange flames

burst through the roof of the five-storey apartment complex that takes up at least one city block.

"Thirty seconds went by and then the whole top was up in flames," Ashie told The Canadian Press. "It seemed kind of out of control at that point, by the time the first fire truck got there."

Not long after, those who had gathered to watch fire officials battle the blaze noticed a figure perched atop a construction crane at the burning apartment complex.

"He actually had to get out of the little booth he was in and walk across the entire length of the crane, which would have been frightening enough," said Ashie. "He had to sit on the edge of the crane, and about 15 minutes later the flames were so big they were going up above the crane." A Griffon helicopter deployed from CFB Trenton plucked the worker from the crane at 3:35 p.m. and took him to a waiting ambulance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Firefighters battle a major fire in downtown Kingston, Ont., on Tuesday. Inset: A crane operator sits on top of crane stranded from the fire below. The man was rescued by Search and Rescue Helicopter from CFB Trenton. LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Murder trial. Knox declares innocence in email to Italian court

Amanda Knox declared her innocence in her roommate's 2007 murder in a highly unusual email Tuesday to the Italian court hearing the case against her. The former U.S. exchange student also said she was staying away from the trial out of fear of being wrongly convicted.

"I didn't kill. I didn't rape. I didn't rob. I didn't plot. I didn't instigate. I didn't kill Meredith," Knox wrote.

Presiding Judge Alessan-

dro Nencini read the five-page email written in Italian into the court record. He noted that the email, presented by Knox's lawyers before their closing arguments, was not a normal procedure in Italy. He said it highlighted Knox's absence and indicated it did not have the same legal standing as a declaration made in person.

Knox explained her absence was out of fear that she would be wrongly convicted. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scotland Yard

No evidence found tying SAS to death of Princess Diana

London's police force said Tuesday there is "no credible evidence" that British special forces were involved in the deaths of Princess

Diana and her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, and it will not reopen the investigation.

Scotland Yard has been looking into claims that the SAS had played a role.

The claims, widely reported in the British media, were made by an ex-SAS member identified only as Soldier N.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putin offers Ukraine \$15B bailout, cheap gas

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday opened his wallet in the battle with the European Union over Ukraine's future, saying Moscow will buy \$15 billion worth of Ukrainian government bonds and sharply cut the price of natural gas for its economically struggling neighbour.

The announcements came after Putin held talks in Moscow with Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych, who is facing massive protests at home for his decision to shelve a pact with the EU in favour of closer ties with Moscow. Russia's bailout package angered protesters, who immediately accused Yanukovych of selling out the country to the Kremlin.

Washington said the Kremlin agreements would not address concerns of the demonstrators in Kyiv, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel dismissed what she



Pro-European Union activists gather during a rally in Independence Square in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Tuesday.

EFREM LUKATSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

described as a "bidding competition" over Ukraine.

Putin's move came as Ukraine said it desperately needs to get at least \$10 billion in the coming months to avoid bankruptcy. The Fitch ratings agency has given Ukraine's bonds a B-minus

rating, which puts them in "junk bond" territory.

Putin sought to calm protesters in Kyiv by saying he and Yanukovych didn't discuss the prospect of Ukraine joining a Moscow-dominated economic bloc they fear will pull their country closer into

Russia's orbit.

Yanukovych has manoeuvred between Russia and the EU in an apparent search for the best possible deal. He has insisted Ukraine intends to sign the EU agreement but wants to negotiate better conditions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Still grieving Lac-Mégantic residents begin rebuilding their shattered town

Healing process.

A team of 11 grief counsellors stays busy providing individual and group therapy

Staring at the spot where her sister's bed once stood, all she could make out amid the ash was a nest of mattress springs gnarled by the intense heat.

Louise Boulet said the building that housed younger sister Marie-France's home had burned to the foundation shortly after a runaway train carrying volatile crude oil roared into her Quebec town of Lac-Mégantic.

The tanker wagons bounced off the tracks in July and erupted in a series of powerful explosions, razing part of Lac-Mégantic's core and killing 47 people.

Marie-France Boulet, 62, was among the victims,



Workers clear debris and decontaminate the soil earlier this month on the main street of Lac-Mégantic, Que. INSET: Smoke rises from railway cars in downtown Lac-Mégantic on July 6. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

though officials could not positively identify her remains.

With 2013 coming to a close, the Boulet family, like

so many in the region, are working to rebuild their lives

and their town following a disaster that grabbed the world's attention.

Since the July 6 crash, millions of dollars in government funding has been pledged for the massive environmental cleanup and reconstruction; blueprints have been sketched for a new downtown; and discussions are underway to see whether the tracks can eventually be re-routed outside of railway-dependent Lac-Mégantic. These changes are taking place amid an ongoing grieving process for the town of 6,000.

The Boulet clan, who held a funeral for Marie-France in September, is one of three families advised this month that the remains of their loved one could not be identified. To date, eight of the 47 victims have yet to be positively identified through scientific testing, though their deaths have been declared.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lac-Mégantic

Rail traffic set to resume

The tracks have been repaired and trains are set to roll through Lac-Mégantic on Wednesday, five months after a runaway train carrying crude oil derailed, exploded and killed 47 people. The railroad remains a vital component for local industry and the economy.

Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway Ltd., the company at the centre of the disaster, is expected to be sold in the coming weeks. Mayor Colette Roy-Laroche is concerned the next owner could resume cash-generating oil shipments through the town.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HAPPY NEW LIFE!

Thanks for another year of recycling empty beverage containers.

Your empty beverage containers can be recycled into something useful. So let's ring in the New Year with cheerful sounds that jingle in your bin.



Facebook auto-play video ads could 'push people away'

Monetizing socializing. Ads silently auto-playing in news feeds a hit with investors, but some users do not like the idea

Investors are giving a thumbs-up to the idea of Facebook making hundreds of millions in new revenue from video advertisements, but some users argue that the social network is already too cluttered and has become more about commercialism than communing with friends.

Facebook said Tuesday that it's testing video advertisements that show up in its users' news feeds. As part of the test, Facebook said some of its users on Thursday will see a series of videos teasing Sum-



Your news feed is about to get more cluttered, with video ads. GETTY IMAGES

mit Entertainment's upcoming release of Divergent, a film based on a young adult novel with the same name, in their feeds.

While investors liked the idea, with Facebook's shares hitting an all-time high of \$55.18 US on the news Tuesday, the reaction from users has been less positive.

Ben Wachtel, a 23-year-old from Indianapolis and a Facebook user since high school, says he feels like he and his friends are using the social network less and less, as ads crowd out posts from real people.

"If they add videos, especially auto play ones, it's just going to push people away," said Wachtel.

Under the current plan, the advertisements automatically start playing without sound when they appear. Users can click on a video to view it with sound, or scroll past it if they're not interested.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



#Top spot on Instagram

Will she be posting that pic of an aquatic animal display at Siam Ocean World in Siam Paragon shopping mall to Instagram? The luxury mall in the heart of Bangkok has claimed this year's crown as the world's most photographed location on Instagram in 2013, says the photo-sharing app.

SAKCHAI LALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Too lazy to undock those halls? Pay someone to do it



Anne-Marie Moore takes an axe to a Christmas tree as she gets ready to Undock The Halls. MIKE DONACHE/METRO IN LONDON, ONT.

If you're sick of the holiday season already — and shame on you if you are — then Anne-Marie Moore has the solution for you.

The London, Ont., specialist gives people back their time, with her business Make It So, taking on the tasks nobody's got time for.

That could be anything from picking up groceries to hiring contractors to building that long-awaited deck, but now Moore's had a seasonal brainwave.

She's launched Undock The Halls, a service that brings down your Christmas decorations, organizes them and packs them away neatly.

"I'm trying to come up with unique ideas for clients to get them what I liked to call return of time," said Moore.

"The business world is familiar with return of investment. But time is our most precious commodity."

"People talk about not having enough time, but they don't take a step back

Undecking tips

- Want to be ready for next year? Remember to roll your lights up neatly.
- Anne-Marie Moore of Undock The Halls also recommends labelling everything so you know where it is.
- If you're storing stuff away, group things by theme or colour.
- Moore recommends a box marked "open me first," so you get into the mood quickly the time the holiday season rolls around.

and ask, 'How am I spending it?'

And, if the thought of tearing down that tree and wrapping up your decorations turns you into an mean Mr. Grinch, Moore's team will merrily do it for you.

MIKE DONACHE/METRO IN LONDON, ONT.

Sequel with new writer

Larsson's widow calls new book 'tasteless, greedy'

The Swedish publisher of the bestselling The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo trilogy said Tuesday it has hired an author to write a sequel to the series by Stieg Larsson, who died in 2004.

Norstedts said it signed a contract with David Lagercrantz, the author of I Am Zlatan, a biography of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, the captain of Sweden's soccer team, to write a new novel about journalist Mikael Blomkvist and hacker Lisbeth Salander that is scheduled to be published in August 2015.

Larsson's longtime partner, Eva Gabrielsson, who has been in a legal dispute with Larsson's father and brother over the rights to the trilogy,



A sequel to the top-selling trilogy is set for 2015. SCREEN GRAB

told daily newspaper Aftonbladet that she finds it "tasteless" to try to make more money out of something that is already so successful.

"I guess I think it's greedy. It's already a multimillion industry," she was quoted as saying. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
94.25¢
(-0.21¢)

TSX
13,180.09 (-4.32)

OIL
\$97.22 US (-\$0.26)

Natural gas: \$4.28 US (+\$0.02)
Dow Jones: 15,875.26 (-9.31)

GOLD
\$1,230.10 US (-\$14.30)

'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING

By the time you read this, someone could be at least \$636 million richer.

That's the U.S. Mega Millions jackpot, which was drawn last night. If nobody wins, the next draw will be Friday, and the prize will approach \$1 billion, which is so ridiculous, it's hard to type.

Of course, Uncle Sam gets his half right off the top, but that will still be a cool half billion after taxes.

Buried somewhere in the fine print are the odds, which are only about one in 259 million. But somebody has to win eventually, and it won't be you if you don't buy a ticket.

Canadians are eligible to buy a Mega Millions ticket, but only if they cross-border shop to do it. So when you're shopping for cheese or cheap gas, don't forget your one-in-259-million chance to join the one per cent over-



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

I wonder if the latest Mega Millionaire will follow the example of Calgarian Tom Crist, who won \$40 million in the Lotto Max recently, then decided to give it all away to charity to commemorate his wife, who died of lung cancer two years ago.

Tom says he's already financially secure thanks to his successful business and he doesn't need the money. But I imagine it's not easy to give away 40 million bucks, never mind 600 zillion.

Tom's story is particularly compelling because this is the season of giving and he sets the bar pretty high. Even the post-ghost Ebenezer Scrooge looks like a piker in comparison.

For years now, my wife has been dutifully buying lottery tickets while I scoff and snort in a nearby dark corner. Just as dutifully, she lists all the people she will help when she wins \$40 million or whatever. And as much as I ridicule the whole

process as pointless, it's not long before I start worrying how we're going to afford the villa on the Riviera while fighting cancer and paying off the mortgages of various friends and relatives.

And then, I remember:

1.) It's her ticket. If I want the villa on the Riviera, I can buy my own ticket.

2.) The odds of winning Lotto Max aren't quite one in 259 million, but I'm more likely to be hit by lightning, and how many times has that happened, touch wood? So what am I going on about?

3.) Whatever happened to my generosity of spirit? It's pretty bad when I can't even imagine giving it away.

So thanks, Tom Crist. With the Spirit of Crist-mas present, you've inspired me to go out, buy a lottery ticket and think about giving it all away. If no one has claimed the Mega Millions prize after last night's draw, I may even head for the border and buy a ticket so I can imagine giving \$600 zillion away. What joy! Of course, there's no chance I'll actually win anything, is there?

So don't get too excited out there...

ZOOM

Carnivore plant pic wins award

A picture of a meat-eating water plant has won this year's Olympus BioScapes International Digital Imaging Competition. Polish-born biologist Igor Siwanowicz's photo shows the inside of an open trap of aquatic carnivorous plant, the humped bladderwort (*utricularia gibba*), which digests micro invertebrates sucked into its trap. METRO

Q and A

An under-water hunter



IGOR SIWANOWICZ
Biologist, 37, from Krakow, Poland, based in Ashburn, Va.

How does it catch its prey?
Antenna-like 'trigger hairs' guide an aquatic arthropod toward the trapdoor. Touching a hair causes the entrance to bulge inward. The plant's walls rapidly spring back to their initial position and the prey is sucked in within a millisecond!

It looks like a sort of bizarre, otherworldly vessel.
Yes, like an alien treasure stash! Honestly, if I tried I couldn't have planned this image to turn out this way. This photograph stands as a salute to nature's ingenuity.



IGOR SIWANOWICZ/2013 OLYMPUS BIOSCAPES INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL IMAGING COMPETITION

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

It's a familiar refrain: an app debuts, gets popular and then gets banned from either the iTunes store or the Google Play store for violating our mobile overlords' terms of service. In the case of Apple, banning an app from iTunes effectively kills it (unless you're willing to jailbreak your phone), but Android's relative openness allows for side-loading apps. So, for all you Android users out there, here are some of the best of the banned:



CONTRIBUTED

Falcon Pro (getfalcon.pro):

Arguably one of the best Twitter clients for Android, Falcon Pro vanished from the Play store last summer. To be fair, it wasn't Google's doing, but rather Twitter's. The company's user limit for third-party clients — which some believe is an attempt to corral everyone into the official app — kiboshed Falcon for new users. Fortunately, you can still install the app, and a little Googling will show you how to circumvent Twitter's limit.

CyanogenMod (cyanogenmod.org):

CyanogenMod is a user-created alternative to stock Android. It's the most popular Android remix on the

market, and allows users to get the latest version of the OS if their manufacturer hasn't released an update. An easy-to-use installer for CyanogenMod was booted from the Play store in November but can still be found online. Be warned, as Google claims installing CyanogenMod can void your warranty.

Amazon Appstore (amazon.com/getappstore):

Google may not always be evil, but they do hate competition. Intended for Kindle users, the Amazon Appstore contains many of the same apps as the official Play store, and also offers regular sales and freebies. Fortunately, the app is still available via Amazon's website.

Comments

@debbiepalms44: Twitter needs them too!

RE: The Vomit Face, The Dislike And The Nobody Cares: Facebook Buttons We'd 'Like', says Metro's Jessica Napier, published Dec. 17

@luxembourg5: OK, the facebook buttons sound great, but enough already about trashing Rob Ford~it gets boring.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: winnipegletters@metronews.ca

Hollywood's in for the long con

American Hustle.

Bale's latest role has him playing a con artist who helps the FBI, but with this genre, it's a con that's been seen before



IN FOCUS

Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

"You're a con artist," wrote Karina Halle in *Sins & Needles*. "A liar. A thief. An unredeemable soul."

She might also have added to that colourful list really interesting movie character.

As despicable as flim flam artists may be, there is no denying they make good film subjects.

This weekend in *American Hustle*, Christian Bale plays Irving Rosenfeld, a con man forced to help the FBI ensnare a group of corrupt politicians in the ABSCAM sting operation.

Although *American Hustle* director David O. Russell says his film is a fictionalized account of events, the ABSCAM operation was headline news in the early 1980s and Hollywood took notice.

In 1982 director Louis Malle was making plans for a May start date on an ABSCAM film called *Moon Over Miami* starring Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi. Belushi was to play Melvin Weinberg, based on the same man as Bale's character in *American Hustle*. The movie was scuttled following Belushi's death in March of that year.

That con man film never saw the light of day, but many others have.



Amy Adams and Christian Bale star in *American Hustle*, which opens this weekend. HANDOUT

Everyone knows *The Sting* and *The Grifters*, but lesser seen is David Mamet's *The Spanish Prisoner*, a complicated story starring Campbell Scott as Joe Ross, a man who invents a process "to control the world market." Concerned that he will not be properly compensated for his work he contacts Jimmy Dell

(Steve Martin), a wealthy businessman who offers to help. Little does Ross know that he has just stepped into a world of deception that will change his life.

Steve Martin's performance in *The Spanish Prisoner* was Oscar worthy, but it wasn't the first time he played a confidence man on

film.

In the comedy *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* he starred opposite Michael Caine as a scruffy con man trying to muscle in on some high end business on the French Riviera. Caine's suave grifter makes a bet with Martin. Whoever can con Soap Queen Janet Colgate (Glenne Head-

Movie review



Stay classy Will Ferrell

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues

Stars. Will Ferrell, Steve Carell

• • • •

Anchorman 2 may not be as classy (or as funny) as its 2004 progenitor but it's definitely more outrageous. For better or worse, star and co-writer Will Ferrell clearly had free rein with a foolish fable of the hapless broadcaster taking on the televised origin of 24-hour news. Ferrell and his star-studded cast will surely earn laughs — even if the sequel falls short of the original's cohesion.

STEVE GOW/METRO

ley) first will walk away with \$50,000.

The movie was written for Mick Jagger and David Bowie who were looking to do a project together after the success of their *Dancing in the Street* video. The rock stars dropped out before cameras rolled — Bowie later said both were, "a bit tweezed that we lost out on a script that could have been reasonably good" — and replaced by Martin and Caine whose hilarious performances earned the movie a spot on Bravo's 100 Funniest Movies list.

Nirvana in spotlight with Hall of fame nod

Rock and Roll. In addition to the Teen Spirit superstars Kiss, Peter Gabriel, Hall and Oates, Linda Ronstadt and Cat Stevens join in

Nirvana, Kiss and Peter Gabriel will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame next year.

The Rock Hall announced Tuesday that Hall and Oates,

Linda Ronstadt and Cat Stevens also will be inducted April 10 at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

Artists are eligible for induction 25 years after their first release.

Nirvana won a nomination in its first year of eligibility and next year the band will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its debut, *Bleach*.

The induction comes 20 years after frontman Kurt Cobain committed suicide at age 27.

This year also marked

first-time nominations for Hall and Oates, Gabriel and Ronstadt. Kiss and Stevens, who have been nominated in the past, made the cut after being absent from the list for several years.

N.W.A., one of the 16 nominees announced in October, did not make the list.

The iconic rap group includes Dr. Dre, who has had successful solo albums and who is the producer behind Eminem, 50 Cent and Kendrick Lamar.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The remaining members of Nirvana will be inducted into the 2014 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on April 10. CHRIS PIZZELLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bob Odenkirk gets seriously funny

Nebraska. Comedian reunites with Will Forte for an Alexander Payne dramedy

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York

Along with David Cross, Bob Odenkirk is responsible for the sketch comedy landmark *Mr. Show*. But he's done plenty of drama — just the funny kind. His role as sleazy (but weirdly capable) lawyer Saul Goodman was one of the highlights of *Breaking Bad*. *Nebraska* reunites him with SNL favourite Will Forte, whom he directed in *The Brothers Solomon*. But it's a serious comedy — a funny but moving study from *Sideways*' Alexander Payne of a family whose sons (Forte and Odenkirk) have to deal with an aging, stubborn, alcoholic father (Bruce Dern) who thinks he's won \$1 million. (He hasn't.)

How did you get involved in a dramedy from a major film?



Nebraska opens on Friday. CONTRIBUTED

maker that reunites you with Will Forte?

I have auditioned for three of Alexander's films. I read for *Sideways*, and I read for *About Schmidt*, and I read for this. I love his work; I'm a huge fan. I felt very confident in playing Ross because I feel like I know him for a number of reasons — not the least because my father had an alcohol problem. My response to the whole experience was not unlike

Ross's, which is anger and lack of forgiveness.

People make a big deal out of comics doing drama and vice versa. How do you feel about that?

I just look at the character and see if I can play him honestly — see if I can relate; see if I can understand where their energy comes from and what they're after. And that's all I concern myself with.

Is drama the same thing as comedy, generally speaking?

I probably have a harder time playing large on some of those sketch comedy stages that I perform on than I do playing smaller and internalizing. And by the way, Vince Gilligan gave me the role of Saul Goodman because of *Mr. Show*, not for anything else. I think there's probably a couple things on *Mr. Show* where you can see the kind of commitment and

modulation that a dramatic performance needs to have.

Did you ask him which sketches inspired him casting you?

I didn't ask him. I never want to look too close in the gift horse's mouth. I'm just like, "Whatever you say, Vince. Thank you." Then I walk away. I don't want to ask why these lunatics give me these opportunities, but if

The good ol' college try

"A lot of us who are making art, we're crossing our fingers behind our back, going, 'Hope this works!'"

Bob Odenkirk

they want to keep giving me wonderful chances, I'll take them.

Being a film director yourself, what is it like working with someone like Payne?

I keep saying how confident Alexander is. And that's something that's refreshing and that only makes you feel more secure and able to risk and try things. A lot of filmmakers and a lot of us making art, we're crossing our fingers behind our back, going, "Hope this works!" I think Alexander Payne is not crossing his fingers. He does the work in every side of his filmmaking. I heard he spent a year finding locations. He's done the hard work.

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Even Elementary's Jon Michael Hill doesn't have a clue about next season

What a mystery. Actor says he never knows what's in store for Detective Marcus Bell

 **MICHELLE CASTILLO**
Metro World News in London

Elementary fans who are sleuthing for clues about the next season will be just as surprised as actor Jon Michael Hill when all the twists and turns are revealed.

Hill, who plays Detective Marcus Bell in the Sherlock Holmes-inspired series, admitted that he doesn't call up the writers in order to find out what's next for his character and his cohorts.

"It's been, you know, difficult not to have more information, but that just means you get to use your

imagination more, which is what I love to do," he explained.

The actor said that he didn't know anything about the famed detective before signing on to the series either. After meeting with show creator Robert Doherty, he went out and bought an anthology of all the Sherlock Holmes stories and was instantly hooked.

"I was very surprised at how wild his character really is and it's great to see the kind of, you know, the little things that Jonny (Lee Miller, who plays Sherlock) picks up and tries to use and the spin they put on the addiction angle of it," he said.

That doesn't mean that Hill doesn't have any suggestions for where his character's storyline should go. For one thing, he wants them to bring back his incarcerated brother, Andre



Jon Michael Hill, far right, plays Detective Marcus Bell in the series Elementary. CONTRIBUTED

Bell. He'd also like to learn more about his character's mother.

But, one thing he isn't clamouring for is another love interest.

"I don't really care, they can do what they want with that," he said. "The last girlfriend they gave me, the ended up trying to kill me!"

Though Hill had training on how to portray a detective after playing Detective Damon Washington in Detroit 1-8-7, he said Bell is a completely different character. He had fun playing the family man Washington, but he admits that the situations Hill gets into because of Sherlock and Watson are more interesting in general.

He still works with the cops who act as technical advisors on set to make sure the show is true to life to get inspiration for his character.

"They're always really cool and they've got stories for days," he explained. "It's really crazy, and they kind of take pride in having the stories that they think might make you squirm."

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**Holiday
happiness
guide**



Beyoncé. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Beyoncé's new album won't hit the Target

It seems not everyone enjoyed the surprise Beyoncé pulled off with her latest album, which debuted online last week with no prior notice. Retail chain Target, in fact, is refusing to carry the album, according to Billboard.

"At Target we focus on offering our guests a wide assortment of physical CDs, and when a new album is available digitally before it is available physically, it

impacts demand and sales projections," a spokeswoman for the chain says. "While there are many aspects that contribute to our approach and we have appreciated partnering with Beyoncé in the past, we are primarily focused on offering CDs that will be available in a physical format at the same time as all other formats. At this time, Target will not be carrying Beyoncé's new self-titled album Beyoncé."



Penélope Cruz

Penélope Cruz is a big fan of breastfeeding

Penélope Cruz is not looking forward to when she has to stop breastfeeding her infant daughter, Luna — in case you were wondering.

"I was breastfeeding my son 13 months, and I plan to

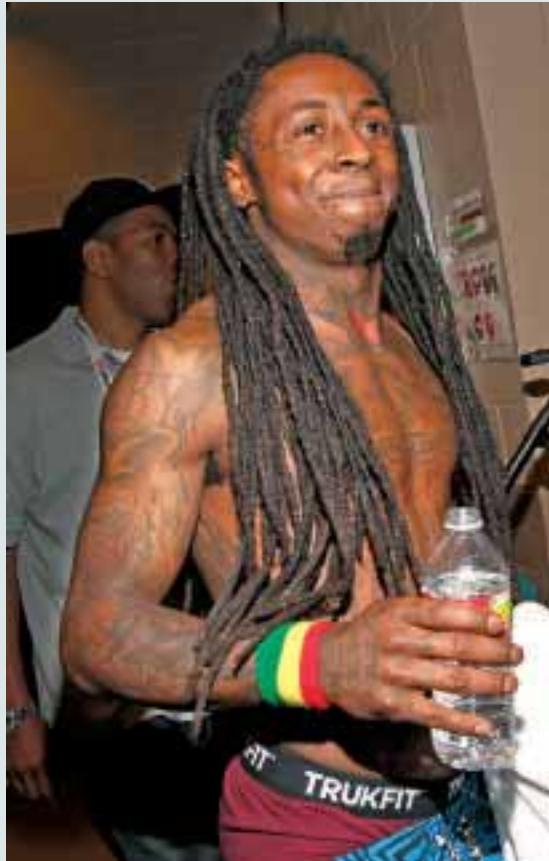
do the same with my daughter. (Nursing) is addictive," Cruz told Allure magazine recently.

"It's hard when the day comes when you have to stop."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Lil Wayne isn't dead, but the Internet is ready if he is

THE WORD

MELINDA TAUB
scene@metronews.ca

At this point, Lil Wayne is basically a superhero, given how many times he's come back from the dead.

Yet another Lil Wayne death rumour was making the rounds on Facebook Tuesday. RIP Rapper Lil Wayne Found Dead, the video reads, before prompting the user to share it before viewing. Not to worry, though — the rapper is alive and well.

It's not clear where this latest rumour springs from (the Inquisitr speculates it could be a Facebook data harvesting scam, since you have to share the video to

view it), but it's far from the first time death rumours have swirled around the rapper. The most credible was this summer, when he was hospitalized for seizures and TMZ reported that he was on his deathbed. However, he recovered.

Why is Lil Wayne such a frequent target of death rumours? Maybe because his real health problems make them quasi-credible. The rapper is epileptic, which is what landed him in the hospital this summer.

"It got real bad because I got three (seizures) in a row, and on the third one my heart rate went down to, like, 30 per cent," he said in a radio interview with Power 106. "Basically, I could've died soon. That's why it was so serious."

I guess he can take some comfort in knowing that if (God forbid) anything ever does happen to him, the Internet has a bunch of In Memoriam videos all ready to go.



Dylan Sprouse

Disney star lays out the bare truth on his pictures

Now that former Disney child star Dylan Sprouse has had time to think about his nude photo leak, he wants everyone to calm down.

"The reason I'm making light of the situation is because I don't think what I did was wrong," the 21-year-old writes on his Tumblr page. "I was proud of my progress in the gym, thought I looked hot and wanted to share it."

He just didn't mean to

share it with the actual recipient of the photos.

"The real problem here was not me sending my pictures to someone, but rather sending them to the wrong someone," Sprouse writes. "The real travesty is a misplaced trust, and while I am certainly to blame for it, it is a shame that my private life was somehow forcibly dragged into the public's perception of me."

Jason Bateman urges Aniston to get married

Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux have been getting some well-intentioned pressure to just go ahead and tie the knot already from someone very close to them: good friend Jason Bateman.

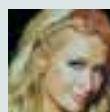
"Jason has been one of the biggest cheerleaders for Justin to pull the trigger and marry Jen," a source tells Radar Online.

"Jen has had her own trepidations, too, after her marriage to Brad Pitt failed. But Jason loves both of them to pieces and as a longtime married father of two himself, he's a better



example of how to achieve personal happiness in Hollywood."

Twitter



@ParisHilton

Just landed in Moscow. It's so cold here. All the plane's windows are covered in snow & ice. Freezing! Burrrrr....



@johnkusack

Finishing a night shoot I. Mobile Alabama - lovely town and people



@Harry_Styles

It's like mixture of spider and mouse.'

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!
If all this white stuff make visions of mogul bumps dance in your head, here are a few exciting developments you should know about for the 2013-2014 ski season.



ON THE
MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca



Rossland's Red Mountain

Just in time for the 2013/2014 ski season, Red Mountain Resort in Rossland, British Columbia has completed the largest expansion of any ski resort in North America in more than four decades. The development of Grey Mountain means an additional 1,000 acres of mostly intermediate terrain to the existing resort. Part of BC's renowned Powder Highway, Red is a two and a half hour drive from Spokane, Washington and three hours from Kelowna.

5

Perks for the powder hounds



Cat tracks and snowshoes

Alberta's Fortress Mountain was closed as a ski resort in 2006. Over the last three years, KPOW (Kananaskis Powder) skiing at Fortress Mountain has brought a cat skiing operation back to sections of the mountain. Ski leaders will tour and teach anyone wanting to take advantage of the eight to 11 metres of annual snowfall. New this year, KPOW is partnering with White Mountain Adventures to offer snowshoeing at Fortress Mountain.



Brand new trails at Blue!

Ontario's premier ski resort, Blue Mountain, has added an additional 64 acres with its Orchard Expansion, which includes six new trails and the latest high-speed chairlift system to get you there. Their lift rate specials are on designated weeks from January to March, but for those spontaneous, flexible souls, Blue Mountain offers a last-minute Hot Deals club that includes the full gamut of accommodations.



Happy 75th Tremblant!

Quebec's Mont Tremblant is turning 75 this year. As part of the anniversary celebrations, the resort has invested \$5 million into The Westin Resort & Spa Tremblant and renovated a number of boutiques and restaurants in the resorts' charming village. The mountain is featuring a long lineup of events throughout the winter including its traditional New Year's Eve party, the official 75th anniversary spring celebrations, the must-attend Caribou Cup, and a new Red Bull signature event that extends over four weekends from March 29 to April 19.



Ski — then stay at La Ferme

If you are planning to hit the slopes of Le Massif de Charlevoix this winter, avoid the 45 minute commute back and forth between Quebec City and stay at the Hôtel La Ferme. Constructed out of an old dairy farm in the middle of a field in Baie-Saint-Paul, this charming hotel is connecting by rail to the ski hills. From the hotel's lobby, skiers can walk into the train station, choose a take-out lunch, hop on the rail shuttle with their skis and get off right at the foot of trails.

Welcome to another kind of Santa that has lots of gifts to give

Santa Barbara.
California dreamin'
starts here with
beaches and wine



JIM
BYERS

@jimbyerstravel
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Romantic Spanish architecture. A craggy mountain range. Luscious wineries and incredible local food. And a fabulous beach that's bathed in sunshine almost year-round.

There's a reason that folks like Oprah Winfrey and the late Ronald Reagan set up homes in the area. There's only one highway in town, and traffic is manageable at the worst of times. But you've got southern California weather and southern California beaches and a stunning Spanish mission rising in the hills above town and one of California's prettiest ocean piers, all of it an easy two-hour drive from the freeway madness of Los Angeles.

Doing

The Santa Barbara mission on Laguna Street might be the prettiest of the Spanish missions that dot the state of California. The Santa Barbara courthouse has Moorish influences and fabulous views of the city's famed red-tiled roofs if you go up the tower. Relax, there's an elevator.

There's great shopping up and down State Street and you can get a trolley to take you up and down the road for just 50 cents. So leave your car at your hotel.

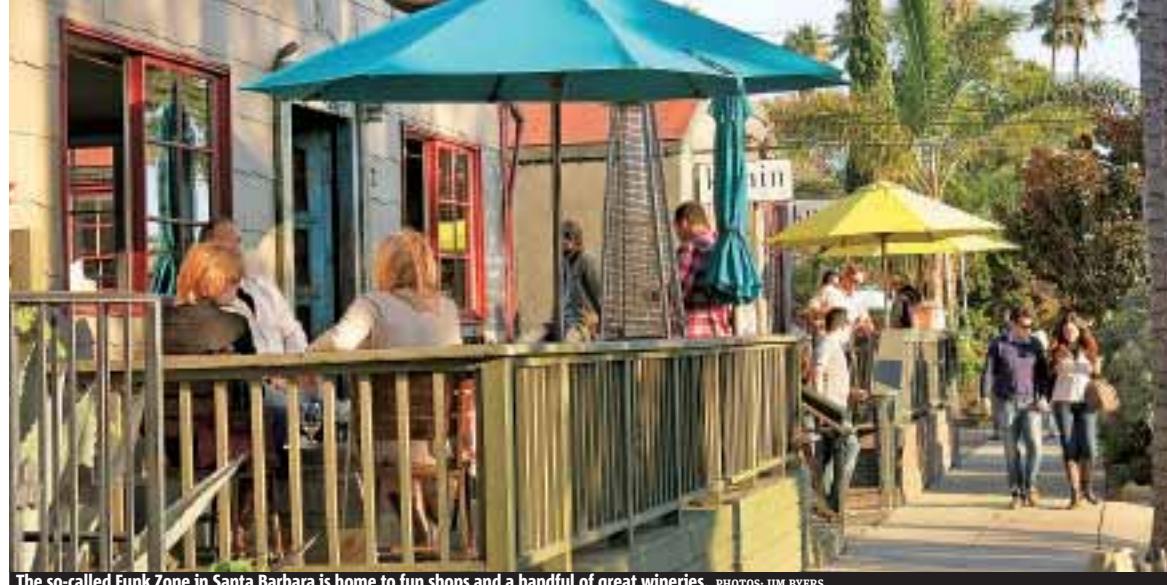
Wander down to Stearns Wharf and admire the ocean views, or take the Lil' Toot ferry boat on a short ride to the nearby boat harbour. DeeTours of Santa Barbara, run by Sandy Glendinning, offers great city or wine tours.

Sleeping

The Harbor View Inn is a casual but nicely designed property with good-sized rooms. It's directly across the street from the beach and from Stearns Wharf.

Drinking

One of the great features of Santa Barbara are the wine tasting rooms right downtown, which means you can leave your car at the hotel and sip and spit (yeah, right) to your heart's delight. This part of California is famous for its Pinot Noir (remember Miles in the movie *Sideways*?), as well as deeper reds like Syrah. There's also good Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay. Municipal Winemakers has a tasting room that looks like an industrial warehouse, while Santa Barbara Winery has cute wine gear and olive oil tasting and such treats as Chocolate Zinfandel sauce.



The so-called Funk Zone in Santa Barbara is home to fun shops and a handful of great wineries. PHOTOS: JIM BYERS



The harbour in Santa Barbara is one of the prettiest in California.

Terrific wine-tasting rooms and restaurants are also a block away. The Four Seasons Biltmore is a beautifully landscaped property on the beach, just south of downtown. They have more than 2,000 varieties of plants, everything from giant yellow hyacinths and birds of paradise to giant fig trees planted around winding paths with romantic gas lanterns.

Expensive, but you'll impress the pants off your significant other.

Dining

Bouchon is an intimate restaurant on Victoria Street with stunning southern California-Mediterranean fare

such as sea bass with risotto and duck on a base of corn, fava beans, smoked bacon and squash. Great wait staff and a super friendly owner.

Carlitos on State Street is a great Mexican place with a pretty patio that's just made for margarita tasting. Chuck's Waterfront Grill/The Endless Summer Bar-Café has fabulous views of the harbour and the mountains.

They have a nice patio and also a casual bar upstairs. Napkins and menus feature the colourful logo from the classic surf movie *The Endless Summer* as director Bruce Brown lives in the area. Good fish tacos.



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Chestnuts roasting on an open fire? They'd be happier in these truffles

Who doesn't love chocolate truffles? They are the essence of chocolate, and a sure-fire mood enhancer. Pop even one into your mouth and see if you don't get happy.

1. In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine the chestnuts and water. Bring to boil, then reduce the heat to maintain a simmer, cover and cook until the chestnuts are very tender and all the water has been absorbed, about 30 minutes.

2. Add the milk and heat the mixture until it just comes to a simmer. Remove the pan from the heat, add the chocolate, then recover the pan. Let stand off the burner until the chocolate is melted, about 3 to 4 minutes. Stir and transfer to a blender along with the espresso powder, salt, corn syrup and liquor. Blend until very smooth.

3. Transfer to a bowl, cover tightly with plastic wrap and chill until very firm, at least 3

Ingredients

- 5.2-oz pkg roasted and peeled chestnuts, medium chopped
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/3 cup low-fat evaporated milk
- 4 oz bittersweet chocolate, medium chopped
- 1 tsp instant espresso powder or 1 tbsp instant coffee
- Pinch of table salt
- 2 tbsp light corn syrup
- 2 tsp Tia Maria, Kahlua, Baileys, brandy or rum
- 1 tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder

hours. Form the mixture into small balls (about 2 tsp each) and roll the balls in the cocoa powder until they are coated, shaking off the excess. Chill until ready to serve. Will keep, refrigerated, for 2 weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/SARA MOULTON, AUTHOR OF SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS

Spiked Mocha Chestnut Truffles



This recipe makes 20 truffles. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Peppermint Sapphire Splash

- 1 and 1/2 oz Bombay Sapphire
- 1/2 oz Martini Bianco
- 1 and 1/2 oz white cranberry juice
- 1/2 oz peppermint liqueur
- Frozen cranberries

Add all liquid ingredients into a shaker. Add ice and shake hard. Strain mixture into a cocktail glass leaving the ice chips in the glass. Garnish with frozen cranberries.

JEAN-SÉBASTIEN DUPUIS/BOMBAY SAPPHIRE



Just cook, drop and roll for a cranberry-coconut mash-up

No-Bake Cranberry Bites



This recipe makes three and a half dozen cookies. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For anyone who loves macaroons, these chewy, cranberry-speckled no-bake cookies should help you satisfy your coconut cravings.

Feel free to decorate these cookies however you like. We prefer to roll them in yet more shredded coconut (toasted is a nice touch), but you also could roll them in chopped pistachios, peanuts, hazelnuts, even pine nuts would be delicious. Or for a sweeter version, get coloured decorating sugar from the baking supply shop and roll them in that.

1. In a large skillet over medium heat, combine the sweetened condensed milk, 4 cups of shredded coconut, the water, brown sugar, cinnamon, cloves and salt. Cook, stirring constantly, until it forms a thick paste, about 8 to 10 minutes. Stir in the cranberries, then set aside off the heat and allow to cool completely.

2. Once the mixture has

Ingredients

- 14-oz can sweetened condensed milk
- 4 cups shredded coconut, preferably unsweetened
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- Pinch salt
- 1 cup chopped dried cranberries
- 1 cup toasted shredded coconut, finely chopped nuts or coloured sugar

cooled, set out a bowl of toasted coconut, finely chopped nuts or coloured sugar. Form the mixture into 1-inch balls, then roll each ball in the coating of your choice.

3. The cookies should be stored in an airtight container between layers of kitchen parchment or waxed paper.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dessert. Blueberry Chocolate Clusters



Ingredients

- 1 cup fresh Chilean blueberries
- 1 cup chocolate chips (dark, milk or white)

1. Rinse blueberries, spread on paper towels and pat dry. Line a baking sheet with wax paper or parchment. Place chocolate in a small bowl or in a double boiler, over barely simmering water. Stir until melted. Remove bowl from hot water and gently fold in blueberries.

2. Make clusters by spooning 3-5 warm chocolate coated blueberries onto wax paper, placing them 1 inch apart or spoon mixture into silicone candy molds if you have them. Refrigerate until firm, about 30 minutes.

3. Transfer to an airtight container and refrigerate for up to three days. Serves 18 to 24 clusters.

4. For gift presentation, place clusters in pleated paper candy cups, arrange in a box lined with tissue, or on a platter. NEWS CANADA/THE US HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY COUNCIL

If you need some inspiration to get ahead, look to the big man in red

Is Santa the employee of the century? He checks his lists twice, he's got the nice thing down, what more can you ask for in a worker?

LEAH RUEHLICKE
TalentEgg.ca

If you're planning on spending some of your holiday downtime on your job search, use the big man himself as someone to model your employable self after.

Not only has he been extremely successful in his career, but he consistently demonstrates a solid work ethic and embodies the qualities of an admirable worker.

Take a look at the top reasons Santa continues to excel year after year and stands strong as a model employee:

He achieves the impossible

He might be a large man, but he still manages to squeeze down even the tightest of chimneys.

What's your version of impossible? Changing industries, going back to school, getting a position that's outside of your experience?

Have a goal, put your mind to it, and you too can fit in places you never thought possible.



Sure it looks like a lot to take on, but Santa's got a can-do attitude when it comes to all tasks, and so should you. ISTOCK

He has a can-do attitude

The whole 'getting around the entire world in one night' detail has stumped the public for centuries — to the point where people use this as the sole reason to stop believing in Santa Claus.

I know, I know.

Think you have too much on your plate? Have people telling you you're underqualified and not skilled

enough for what you want to do? You can do anything you set your mind to — just ask Santa.

He asks for what he needs

Santa has one of the busiest jobs around. He has billions of people relying on him to gear up and deliver — literally.

He knows he can do it, but he also knows he might need a little help along the way.

Santa has no shame in asking for some milk and cookies to give him the energy he needs to power through.

If you feel like you don't have all the tools or training you need to most effectively do your job, speak up!

Your boss wants you to be productive — and if there's something you need help with in order to do just that, they should know about it.

He gives back

Santa never steals the spotlight, constantly paying recognition to his hardworking elves and reindeer: two very important pieces in the holiday puzzle. Santa couldn't be Santa without a team and he knows that.

Santa also engages. Write him a letter and he will write back!

As we all know, so much of the job market nowadays

He follows the dress code

He follows the dress code

- It's easy to get too comfortable at a place of employment, or reach that point where you've been there long enough that you start trying to get away with more and more.

- Santa has been doing the same job for what likely feels like forever, yet his outfit never disappoints. After hundreds of years delivering toys across the globe, he still shows up in a suit. Every. Single. Year.

- Think like Santa and you too can ho-ho-hold your head high as a model employee.

is dependent on our social channels. Employers will look you up (or engage with you) on LinkedIn, Twitter and beyond. You want to make sure you're doing it right.

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Don't endlessly push your own content without commenting or engaging with other posts as well. Share the spotlight and celebrate people who have helped you get to where you are.

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So you're home for the holidays? Relax and reap the benefits of time

Make the best of your break.

The weather outside may be frightful, but you've got a sweet space of time off and you're advised to take advantage

OLIVIA
HOSKIN
TalentEgg.ca

While some people are lucky enough to have minimal exams and get a full 3-4 weeks off of school, others will have a full exam schedule, but we all still wind up with at least two weeks of winter break.

If you don't have any concrete family/friend vacations planned, remember these sim-

Have a great time

Winter break is called a "break" for a reason.

- It gives your brain time off of the busy scholastic life and gives you a breather until the next semester begins. Make sure you take advantage of this and have some time to yourself.
- Sure, holiday shopping and all the celebrations can be stressful, but certainly make time for yourself to get some R&R before you wind up in the library again.

ple ways to ensure you make the most out of your winter break:

Rest and relaxation

First and foremost, get some beauty sleep. Chances are you have bags under your eyes from last minute cramming and/or travelling back home. Get some quality Zzzs so you're ready to start your holiday routine and aren't acting like you just had some bad eggnog.

Remember your routine

Spend time catching up with friends and family but ultimately, if you've got a regular plan, stick to it.

Although New Years is when people usually make most of their "resolutions" or new routines for the coming year, if you already have a fitness regimen or regular schedule, be sure to work that into your days at home. Most people expect to gain a little holiday weight but if it can be avoided by sticking to a plan you already follow regularly, you'd be crazy not to do it.

Save your money

Parents, siblings and friends understand what it's like to be a broke student; for most of them, it's a "been there, done that" situation. Here are some ways to make the most of your (probably) dwindling cash supply:

- Don't go big on social gatherings by trading extravagant dining for lots of coffee dates. Even at Starbucks, a big cup of coffee should never run you more than \$3.00. Skip the social lunches and brunches that often rack up an unexpectedly large tab, and invite your friends out for a cup of java instead. Your body is probably used to all the caffeine from
- Save money travelling home by checking out student discounts on rental cars, train or bus rides and even some airfare. Most schools have negotiated deals with various



Don't let wacky weather damper your drive to succeed. Start a job hunt from home. iSTOCK

transportation companies and get discounts on top of their usual deals for their students. Alternatively, carpooling has always been a sure-fire way to save time, energy and money.

late night cram sessions anyway. This way, you get a warm and inviting environment to chat and catch up, plus a warm beverage, minus the huge bill!

- Use Netflix for movie nights. Instead of spending \$20+ on movies and snacks, get a Netflix account (chances are one of your friends has one) and have everyone bring a variety of snacks. After all, that's what your parents' basements are for, right?
- As for the gift-giving, a Secret Santa amongst groups of friends is usually the best way

to save money. Put a spending cap on the present and everyone in the group gets one nice, personal present instead of scraping together change to buy tiny gifts for a bunch of people.

Find a summer job

Summer positions are certainly filled quickly and the cut-off for most jobs is mid-January to early February, but the earlier you start looking, the more options you'll have.

Schedule a day or two, or 1-2 hours per day if you prefer spreading it out, for job hunting and sending out resumes

and cover letters. Be sure to put some thought into this process and only apply to jobs you really want – your enthusiasm will translate into your application.

What if the company you want to work for has no information on internships or summer positions? Give them a call! Reaching out to a company and displayed an interest in the business is a great way to find a hidden opportunity. You'll never know the jobs you can get if you don't ask about them.

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Jacquie,
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Student

Getting-to-know-you gifts



What do you know about your office acquaintance, if anything, that might help in your holiday hunt. ISTOCK

This one's for you, stranger. What do you buy for the distant colleague whose name you picked out of a hat?

Along with icy sidewalks and stale fruitcake, buying a gift for the person you had to secretly pick at the office is just one more hazard of the holiday season.

So if you've got a Secret Santa emergency on your hands, here are some creative gift ideas from the Canadian bargain hunting website RedFlagDeals.com:

Office temp

This is often code for "over-worked" or "underpaid." Skip the gag gifts and get something fun and enjoyable like movie passes or a mall gift card.

New person

It's hard to buy for someone if you barely know their name, so start by getting to know them.

If they're always drinking coffee, put together a nice mug and a coffee shop gift certificate for the ultimate gift.

Receptionist

Skip the office supplies. Instead, treat them to a deluxe gift basket, a small spa package or a good book.

IT/help desk

Treat the people who fix your computer well. Something like a gift certificate to their favourite restaurant will work. If you want to be a bit more creative, observe what they decorate their desk with and get them something that fits in.

Executive

Giving a present to your boss or their boss can be awkward. Choose a meaningful gift instead of something fancy or expensive. Fun gifts like a framed photo from a work event or something to share, like gourmet cookies, are a safe bet.

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Sabres blast Jets with four unanswered goals

Jets goaltender Ondrej Pavelec makes a save in front of Sabres centre Tyler Ennis in Buffalo on Tuesday night. The Sabres scored four unanswered goals, including three in the third period, to beat the Jets 4-2. Mark Scheifele scored two goals in 36 seconds to build a 2-0 second-period lead for the Jets, who have lost four of their past five games. It was Buffalo's first regulation win since Nov. 15 against Toronto, when interim head coach Ted Nolan took over for the fired Ron Rolston. GARY WIEPERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dineen takes reins of national women's team

Olympic hockey.
Former NHL player, coach says he's 'hopping on a moving train'

A big NHL name with no previous experience coaching international hockey has stepped behind the bench of Canada's Olympic women's hockey team.

Kevin Dineen was introduced Tuesday as the replacement for Dan Church, who abruptly resigned last week.

Dineen was fired last month by the NHL's Florida Panthers. He's represented Canada as a player six times, but the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, will be the first time he's coached a Canadian team.

Dineen called his hiring "hopping on a moving train" as the Sochi opening ceremonies are less than two months away. Two forwards and a defenceman must be released before the 21-player Olympic roster is named.

Dineen was born in Quebec City, but grew up in Toronto.

Up next

Canada will meet the U.S. in an exhibition game on Friday in Grand Forks, N.D.

The 50-year-old played in 1,188 NHL regular-season games, scoring 355 goals and adding 405 assists for the Hartford Whalers, Philadelphia Flyers, Carolina Hurricanes, Columbus Blue Jackets and Ottawa Senators.

He also played for the Canadian team that finished

fourth at the 1984 Olympics in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

"That stuck with me a long time, not to come out of there with a medal," Dineen said. "I may have a little unfinished business from my Olympic experience."

Dineen was in his third season coaching the Panthers when he was dismissed Nov. 8. Looking for hockey work, he said he contacted Hockey Canada president Bob Nicholson early last week about the possibility of coaching at the men's world championship in April.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sochi 2014

Obama picks gay athletes for delegation

U.S. President Barack Obama sent Russia a clear message about its treatment of gays and lesbians with who he is — and isn't — sending to represent the United States at the Sochi Olympics.

Tennis champion Billie Jean King will join the U.S. delegation at the opening ceremony, while Caitlin Cahow, a hockey player and Olympic medalist, will be at the closing ceremony. For the first time since 2000, the U.S. will not send a president, former president, first lady or vice-president to the Games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Iggy, Krejci feed Big Z twice, Bruins cool Flames

Zdeno Chara scored two power-play goals and Jarome Iginla had a pair of assists against his former team to help the Boston Bruins beat the Calgary Flames 2-0 on Tuesday night.

David Krejci also had two assists and Tuukka Rask made 21 saves for the Bruins in their third straight shutout of the Flames in Boston. Rask picked up his third shutout of the season and extended Calgary's scoreless streak in Boston to 189 minutes, 36 seconds.

Reto Berra kept Calgary close, stopping 29 shots as the Bruins controlled play most of the game. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Bellefeuille stays on as Blue Bombers' OC

CFL. In its horrible season, Winnipeg looked better on offence after firing previous co-ordinator

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers are bringing back offensive co-ordinator Marcel Bellefeuille next season.

New Blue Bombers head coach Mike O'Shea announced Tuesday that Bellefeuille will return to run Winnipeg's offence. Bellefeuille finished off Winnipeg's disappointing 2013 season in that role after Gary Crowton was fired on Aug. 18 following a five-game losing streak.



Marcel Bellefeuille
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

"Marcel brings a wealth of experience and success to our offensive and I am very pleased he has accepted the position of offensive co-ordinator," O'Shea said in a statement. "Having worked with some of our play-

ers already, and having a grasp on the type of organization we are trying to build, I feel Marcel is the right fit for this position."

While Winnipeg finished with a 3-15 record, the offence slowly began to take shape in the second half of the season behind quarterback Max Hall.

Bellefeuille was reportedly considered for the head coach position for the expansion Ottawa Redblacks, which went to former Calgary defensive co-ordinator Rick Campbell. With all head coaching positions filled going into next year, it appears Bellefeuille's foreseeable future lies in Winnipeg.

Bellefeuille served as head coach of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats from midway through the 2008 season through 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	20	4	.833	—
d-Miami	18	6	.750	2
Atlanta	13	12	.520	7 ^{1/2}
d-Boston	12	14	.462	9
Detroit	12	14	.462	9
Charlotte	11	14	.440	9 ^{1/2}
Washington	10	13	.435	9 ^{1/2}
Toronto	9	13	.409	10
Chicago	9	14	.391	10 ^{1/2}
Cleveland	9	15	.375	11
Brooklyn	9	15	.375	11
Orlando	8	17	.320	12 ^{1/2}
New York	7	17	.292	13
Philadelphia	7	19	.269	14
Milwaukee	5	19	.208	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Portland	22	4	.846	—
Oklahoma City	19	4	.826	1 ^{1/2}
d-San Antonio	19	5	.792	2
d-L.A. Clippers	17	9	.654	5
Houston	16	9	.640	5 ^{1/2}
Phoenix	14	9	.609	6 ^{1/2}
Denver	14	9	.609	6 ^{1/2}
Dallas	14	10	.583	7

x - clinched playoff berth; y - division; z - conference.
Tuesday's results
Boston 2 Calgary 0
Buffalo 4 Winnipeg 2
Tampa Bay 3 NY Islanders 2 (SO)
Florida 3 Toronto 1
Anaheim 5 Detroit 2
Montreal 3 Phoenix 1
Washington at Philadelphia
Vancouver at Minnesota
San Jose at St. Louis
Chicago at Nashville
Colorado at Dallas
Edmonton at Los Angeles
Monday's results
Winnipeg 3 Columbus 2
Pittsburgh 3 Toronto 1
Ottawa 3 St. Louis 2 (OT)
Colorado 6 Dallas 2
Wednesday's games
All Times Eastern
Ottawa at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at NY Rangers, 8 p.m.
Thursday's games
Phoenix at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Boston at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Calgary at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	19	28	47
Kane, Chi	19	26	45
Malkin, Pgh	9	32	41
Getzlaf, Ana	16	23	39
Ovechkin, Wash	27	10	37
Tavares, NYI	13	24	37
Perry, Ana	21	15	36
Backstrom, Wash	8	28	36
Steen, STL	22	13	35
Thornton, SJ	5	30	35
Seguin, Dal	18	15	33
Kunitz, Pgh	17	16	33
Sharp, Chi	16	17	33
Kessel, Tor	17	15	32
Ryan, Ott	16	16	32

Not including last night's games

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland 119 Cleveland 116				
Charlotte 95 Sacramento 87				
L.A. Lakers 96 Memphis 92				
Oklahoma City at Denver				
New Orleans at Golden State				

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit 101 Indiana 96				
Boston 101 Minnesota 97				
Atlanta 114 L.A. Lakers 100				
Miami 117 Utah 94				
Washington 102 New York 101				
Brooklyn 130 Philadelphia 94				
Orlando 83 Chicago 82				
L.A. Clippers 115 San Antonio 92				

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Review. New looks, new platform, but the same ...

MALCOLM GUNN
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It has a lot of new in it, on it and under it, but unless you're really paying attention, you might not realize it.

On the surface, you have to wonder about the time and money spent to build the 2014 Kia Soul, but it's really no different than with brands such as Mini that spend millions on a new car that looks much the same as before. That's "the band" after all.

The Mini has more history than the Soul, but the Soul is no less unique and there is a certain cachet about it. Only a handful of models have tried to match the Soul's artful shape since it arrived for the 2011 model year. For the mid-cycle refresh, Kia's California and Korea-based design teams used the 2012 Trackster concept show vehicle as a starting point. They did tone down that bit of zaniness (a two-door wagon doesn't cut it out in the

real world), but a number of shape-shifting elements were passed along to the 2014 Soul. The Soul's overall packaging has also been upsized a bit. The distance between the front and rear wheels increases by about 2.5 centimetres while about 1.5 centimetres has been added to the width.

These changes, along with a slight body-height reduction, give the Soul a more planted appearance. On the practical side, cargo space has been increased slightly (with the rear seats up or folded flat) and the liftgate opening is now six centimetres wider. The added size comes from a new platform that's larger and considerably stiffer (by 29 per cent). Combined with a numerous suspension revisions, Kia claims the 2014 Soul is quieter and has an improved ride that performs more smoothly over bumps and undulations.

Also adding to the cabin's allure is a thoroughly revised and upgraded dashboard, control panel and seat coverings. Nearly all of the plasticity bits are now covered in/replaced with soft-touch materials, as are the door panels. The steering wheel

2014 Kia Soul

Type. Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact wagon

Engines (hp). 1.6-litre DOHC I4 (130); 2.0-litre DOHC I4 (164)

Transmissions. Six-speed manual; six-speed automatic (opt. with 1.6; std. with 2.0)

Base price (incl. destination).

\$18,700

Design

In front, a revised "bulldog" nose and enlarged grille adds greater definition, while at the opposite end the Trackster-inspired boomerang-shaped taillights appear to be floating inside the rear glass, as does the rear body panel built into the liftgate. The effect is simply brilliant.

Compare



1 Fiat 500
 Base price: \$21,700



2 Nissan Cube
 Base price: \$19,100

Fuel economy

The 1.6 comes with a six-speed manual transmission or optional six-speed automatic, but the 2.0 is only available with the automatic. The 1.6 is rated at 6.5 l/100 km in the city and 8.6 on the highway with the manual gearbox (6.6/8.5 with the automatic).

Ready for Winter Package: \$39.95

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Stars and cars, flash and cash. The 2013 Los Angeles Auto Show didn't disappoint with its usual blend of style and speed, all gracing dozens of stages throughout the Los Angeles Convention Center.

From gaudy and showy to practical and ecological, nearly 50 production vehicles made worldwide and U.S. debuts alongside the launches of about a dozen fresh concepts. With the global economy continuing to show signs of life, an estimated 1,000,000 spectators passed through the turnstiles during the 10-day event (Nov. 22 to Dec. 1) that unofficially kicks off the North American auto-show season every fall.

Automakers pulled out all the horsepower and star-power to attract both thrifty and lavish new-car buyers this year in an ultra-competitive market.

Tennis great Maria Sharapova climbed from the driver's seat of the new 2015 Porsche Macan during its unveiling — one of the most anticipated world debuts at the show — while NBA star Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers was in house to promote a long list of vehicles Kia brought to L.A. Sharing the same opening date as the 2013 Tokyo Motor Show, the L.A. Auto Show had to share some of the international headlines, but not enough to diminish the importance and influence this West Coast vehicle expo traditionally has on the approach-



Arguably the star of the show was the striking Mercedes-Benz Vision Gran Turismo.

ing auto season.

So, what's new?

When it comes to cars and California, enough is never enough in terms of styling, luxury and technology. Last year's message of conservative efficiency took a backseat this year to speed, power, status and excess. The sleek and sexy 2015 Jaguar F-Type Coupe emerged as the headline act among the debut vehicles. Not even TV mogul Simon Cowell and supermodel Miranda Kerr could hold audience attention as the new Jaguar Coupe made its grand debut with a full-throttle, ear-busting entrance into the arena while the two stars stood nearby. Ready for spring of 2015, the best version of what is essentially a hardtop version of the two-seat F-Type roadster features a 550-horsepower supercharged V8 that propels it to 100 km/h from zero in 4.0 seconds and to a top speed of 298 km/h. For those with slightly smaller budgets, Porsche countered with its own showstopper in the 2015



Honda's extremely futuristic-looking concept, the FCEV, definitely got tongues wagging with its unusual yet sleek design

Macan, a compact tall wagon that combines pizzazz, performance and nearly endless customization options. Porsche debuted two Macan models in L.A. with differing V6 powerplants: the 300-horsepower Macan S; and the 400-horsepower Macan Turbo. The Turbo goes from standstill to 100 km/h in 4.6 seconds. Both models are scheduled to arrive at Canadian dealerships late in the spring of 2015, with base pricing set at \$54,300 (Canadian funds) for the S and \$82,200 for the Turbo. For the more blue-collar driver,

Chevrolet launched its 2015 Colorado in the hopes of rejuvenating a rather stagnant mid-size pickup truck segment. Based on a new global truck platform first shown two years ago, Chevy believes the versatile Colorado will rival the popular small pickups from Toyota and Nissan, and appeal to people with active lifestyles who aren't interested in a car or a full-size truck. Quiet, comfortable and rugged (according to Chevy), the Colorado will initially offer a 2.5-litre four-cylinder and a 3.6-litre V6. A six-speed automatic transmis-

sion is standard, but a six-speed manual is also available (for four-cylinder Work Truck models only) and a 2.8-litre turbo-diesel option will be added to the Colorado catalogue for the 2016 model year. Pricing has yet to be set.

So, What else?

Production models weren't the only vehicles making headlines at the L.A. Auto Show as the usual parade of quirky and fascinating concept vehicles drew plenty of attention. By far, the Mercedes-Benz Vision Gran Turismo created the most chatter. This striking sports car features gull-wing doors and was designed to resemble a big cat on the hunt with a blend of some old-school classic Mercedes race cars nicely blended in. Inspiration for the design came from the new Gran Turismo 6 video game. And while there are no plans for a production version of this car, a few design ideas are expected to find some future Mercedes models, especially

Correction

In last week's AutoKnow we said the services of Canada Drive Away costed "typically not more than \$500." It should have read not less than \$500. Metro apologizes for the error.

the replacement for the SLS AMG that's at the end of the road. Honda offered a glimpse into its long-term commitment to improving hydrogen fuel-cell technology and performance — and perhaps a hint at the direction of some futuristic sci-fi looking model designs — with its FCEV. This creative concept is powered by a hydrogen fuel "stack" that converts hydrogen to electricity. Instead of plugging in at night as you might with a battery powered car, you just make sure the tank is full of hydrogen and you're good to go. No "range anxiety," as long as there's hydrogen around. Honda plans to have it ready for production and launch sometime in 2015. And with an eye to the longer-term, Ford pulled the curtain on its Edge concept, which is a vehicle that takes a couple more steps toward full vehicle autonomy with its use of ultrasonic sensors. It features a fully-assisted parking aid that can be activated from inside the vehicle or by remote control and will prompt the car to navigate into and out of a parking space, with no driver assistance. The L.A. Auto Show might never attract the media or industry interest of the annual show in Detroit (coming up in January). But when it comes to celebrating big names and memorable debuts, nobody does it better than the folks in Tinsel Town.

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zoom-zoom



Three ways to beat the winter driving blues

Fun, diversity and technology. Enjoy the shaky ride and the skill involved to control in harsh conditions while appreciating the tires that help you do so



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Seems to me it's just as crucial to prepare your mood for winter driving as it is to prepare your vehicle for winter driving.

This occurred to me last

weekend as I drove through a winter storm, or at least what the weather media elite here in Central Canada now call a winter storm. Could be wrong, but didn't we once just call this type of thing "winter"? Anyways, here are three ways you might adjust your mood, to be the boss of winter driving, and not the other way around...

Realize the Fun Factor
It's not a wintery mess, it's an opportunity to get the vehicle a little "loose" on the snow. And that's fun. Well, fun until you hit something hard, and a lot of people in uniforms come calling. Sliding around an empty, snow-covered parking lot, used to be the time-honoured way teenage boys learned car control.

Put on some Twisted Sister and give it a try. Even if you don't have a run-off safety zone or empty parking lot at your disposal, just revel in the extra brain energy it takes to drive on slippery surfaces. It's engaging, entertaining and probably at least as effective in staving off dementia as doing crossword puzzles.

lary of four-letter words, why not just revel in the diversity, and let patience and the pride of your superior driving abilities be your predominant state of mind.

Leverage the Technology
Winter tire technology has shot up lately. They used to be quite a bit better in the cold, slush and snow than all-seasons. Now

they're crazy better. They take a winter weakling of a vehicle and turn it into a minor superhero of a winter vehicle, and driving a superhero is definitely mood-altering. And we'd like to give props to Canadian Tire, for being the first to commission the development of an all-season tire that actually changes colour at 7 degrees Celsius, the point at which they start to struggle, by becoming less pliable and less able to grip the road. It's your signal that it's time to swap them for those super capable winters.

Interestingly, the technology is not unlike a mood ring. When the temperature drops, you mood is susceptible to drop too. But it doesn't have to — mind bend it the other way.

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Dealer offers not combinable with any FCA APR or Daily Retail incentives, the Commercial Light Program or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFIP). ▲ Between December 16 - 29, 2013, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2014 Ford models (excluding F-150, Mustang Shelby and BOSS 302, Flex, Explorer, Expedition, Taurus, Connect, E-Series, F-Series Cab XLT, Value Leader, F-150 Super Cab XLT, F-150, and medium truck) for up to 80 months, with \$0 down or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is \$15,500. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. ▲ Offer valid until January 1, 2014 for F-150, Taurus, Connect, E-Series, F-Series Cab XLT, F-150 Super Cab XLT, F-150, and medium truck for up to 80 months, with \$0 down or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is \$15,500. After January 1, 2014, all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: \$15,500 purchase financed at 0% APR for 48/60/72/80 months, monthly payment is \$308.83/\$456.64/\$542.72, cost of borrowing is \$9 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is \$15,500. Total Manufacturer Retail of \$15,500. Total Ford Credit, Taurus, Connect, E-Series, F-Series Cab XLT, F-150, and medium truck for up to 80 months, with \$0 down or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is \$15,500. After January 1, 2014, all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: \$15,500 purchase financed at 0% APR for 48/60/72/80 months, monthly payment is \$308.83/\$456.64/\$542.72, cost of borrowing is \$9 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is \$15,500. Total Manufacturer Retail of \$15,500. Total Ford Credit, Taurus, Connect, E-Series, F-Series Cab XLT, F-150, and medium truck for up to 80 months, with \$0 down or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is \$15,500. After January 1, 2014, all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. 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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You will get exactly what you deserve today: no more and no less. If the rewards are good don't doubt that you have earned them; and if the rewards are not so good then aim to do better next time.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You will have to do something that makes you unpopular but if you don't do it now you may have to do something twice as bad later on.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Money matters may be causing you concern but other aspects indicate you can still have lots of fun. Besides, if you keep too tight a hold of the purse strings now you may have to spend more later.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

The important thing today is that you don't over-extend yourself physically, financially or emotionally. Know your limits and stay within them.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Cosmic activity in positive areas of your chart urges you to open up and let friends and family know what you need in terms of both material wellbeing and emotional support.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

People will be demanding of you today and there may come a time when you realize you are being taken for a ride. The fact is they could have done most of these things for themselves if they wanted to. Make them wish they had.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

At some stage today your frustration is likely to bubble over and you will say or do something that you later regret. But, even so, it's good to remind those around you that your patience is finite.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You won't get things all your own way today, especially on the home front where partners and loved ones are anything but reasonable. The good news is this is only a passing phase.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

There will be a setback concerning a money matter or business deal and you won't be happy about it. But is it worth getting worked up about?

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

It seems you are stuck with a decision you took a while back and would do anything to get yourself out of now. That might just be possible today but the planets warn it won't come cheap.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Delays of one sort or another are likely over the next 24 hours but while it may be frustrating it could also inspire you to try a different route.

Pisces

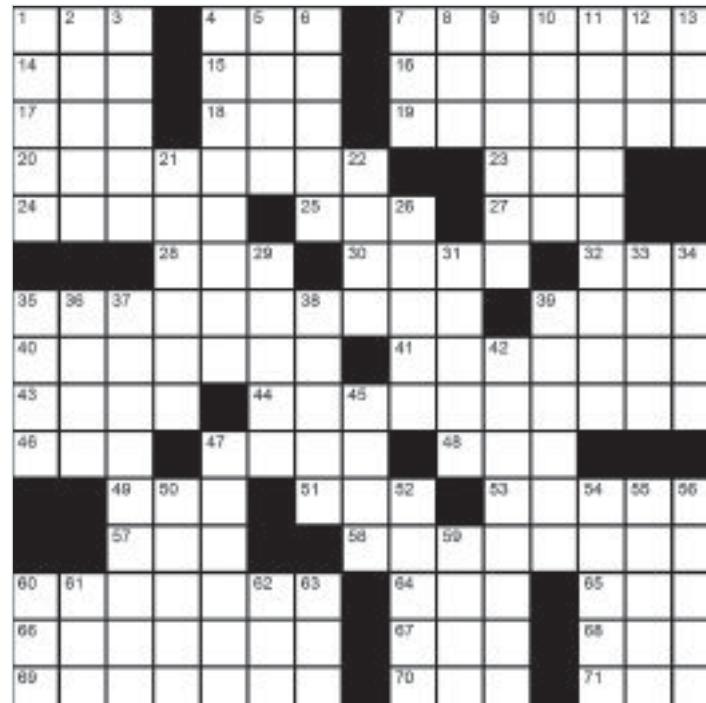
Feb. 20 - March 20

You seem to have lost your way a little and the planets suggest you swallow your pride and ask someone who knows what they are doing to help you. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

- 15, 30 or 50, e.g.
- Opening
- Truck
- Airport sched. word
- British singer Rita
- By mistake: 2 wds.
- diant (Self-styled)
- Martini ingredient
- Canadian comic book superheroine, ___ of the Northern Lights
- Saskatchewan city east of Saskatoon
- Driver's proof, e.g.
- Improvise
- Sushi tuna
- Tattoo artist's supply
- “ ___ guy walks into...”
- Botanist Mr. Gray's
- Sports org.
- Michael J. Fox, e.g.: 2 wds.
- Earth's inner
- Where Zagreb is the capital
- Acquiesces
- Er, I don't know-ish
- Winter resort accommodations: 2 wds.
- Literary fairy queen
- Molt
- Fashionable

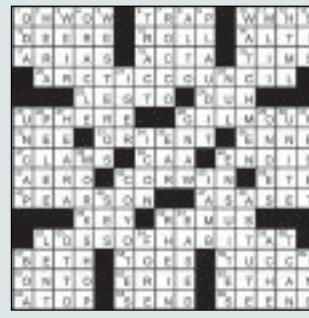


monogram
49. Freelancer's encl.
51. Six, in Italy
53. Entire
57. No Scrubs group
58. Canadian hockey brothers Phil or Tony
60. Mercy Mercy Me (The ___) by Marvin Gaye

64. Playboy Mansion's man, for short
65. Dorothy, to pals
66. Encounter: 2 wds.
67. Goof
68. Bug kind
69. Alberta village, home of the World's Largest Pyrogy
70. Actor Mr. Knight, et al.

71. Uncle on Seinfeld
Down
1. Alexander's nickname
2. Peacock's feeling
3. Czech composer, Rudolf ___
4. 1960s dancer's outfit part: 2 wds.
5. Botanical 'coat'
6. Zoo attraction
7. Wine: French
8. Compass point
9. Steve McQueen war movie, ___ for Heroes (1962)
10. Dick ___, legendary Montreal Canadiens

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

9	5	2	4	1	8	7	6	3
3	4	8	6	2	7	9	1	5
1	7	6	9	3	5	8	2	4
6	3	5	1	4	9	2	8	7
2	8	9	7	6	3	4	5	1
4	1	7	5	8	2	3	9	6
5	2	1	8	7	4	6	3	9
7	9	3	2	5	6	1	4	8
8	6	4	3	9	1	5	7	2

6		3		
4	5		9	
	8			7 4
4		7	5	8
1		9	3	2
9		6	8	1
2	3		9	2 4
	8		1	7

Weather

TODAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



MAX: -8°
MIN: -21°



MAX: -19°
MIN: -24°



MAX: -16°
MIN: -19°

JENNA KHAN
WEATHER SPECIALIST

“Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning.” **WEEKDAYS 6 AM**



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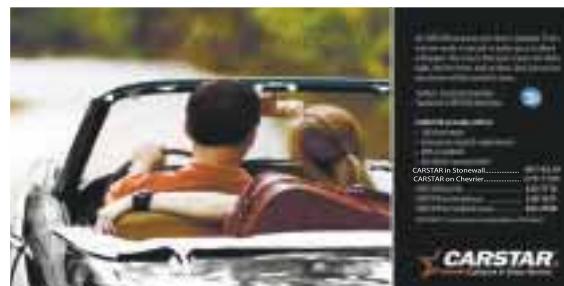
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coach
11. De-cypher: 2 wds.
12. Mr. Chaney
13. Period
21. France/Spain: Bay of ___
22. “Take ___!”
26. Hero of Upper Canada, Sir ___ Brock (b.1769 - d.1812)
29. TLC's *Breaking ___*
31. Like a shoe's support
33. Guitar bar
34. Not as much
35. Pond guck
36. ___ S. Rombauer (Joy of Cooking author)
37. Yukon: ___ Territorial Park
38. “For goodness ___!”
39. Orchestra instruments
42. Left-overs
45. Obsession, ___ fixe
47. Canadian cafe chain, ___ Cup
50. ___ the Family
52. The Kid ___
Tonite by Loverboy
54. Word up for
56. ___ 6/49
59. “...and a partridge in a ___ tree.”
60. Work unit
61. ___-de-sac
62. Ronny & The Daytonas hit
63. Far, quaintly



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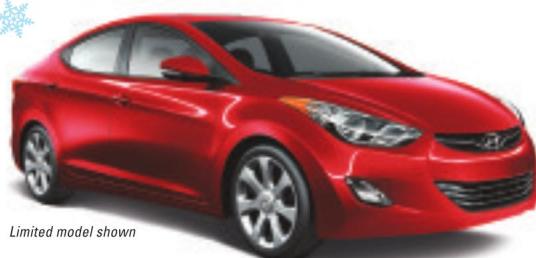
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2013 ACCENT 5 DR



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2013 SONATA



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2013 SANTA FE SPORT



Limited model shown

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TMThe Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. •Price of models shown: 2013 Elantra Limited/Accent 5 Door GLS 6-Speed Manual/Sonata Limited/Santa Fe Sport 2.0T Limited AWD are \$24,985/\$19,385/\$30,785/\$40,395. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of \$1,550/\$1,550/\$1,650/\$1,760 fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding GST/PST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. [†]Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services. Financing example: 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual for \$15,035 (includes \$2,500 in price adjustments) at 0% per annum equals \$145 bi-weekly for 48 months for a total obligation of \$15,035. \$0 down payment required (without 12 month payment deferral). Cash price is \$15,035. Cost of Borrowing is \$0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of \$1,550, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding GST/PST). Finance example excludes registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. [®]Price adjustments are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Price adjustments of up to \$2,500/\$2,500/\$750/\$750/\$3,000 available on 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Sonata SE Auto/Accent 5 Door L 6-Speed Manual/Santa Fe Sport 2.0T Limited AWD/ Genesis 5.0L GDI R-Spec. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. ▼0 payments (payment deferral) for up to 12 months is available on all remaining new in-stock 2013 Hyundai models. Payment deferral offer applies only to purchase finance offers on approved credit. Payments for purchase finance offers are paid in arrears. If 12-month payment deferral is selected, the original term of the contract will be extended by 11 months for monthly finance contracts. Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. will pay the interest of the deferral for the first 11 months of the monthly finance contract. After this period, interest will start to accrue and the purchaser will pay the principal and interest monthly over the remaining term of the contract. A minimum down payment in the amount of 10% of the purchase price is required. ▲0▼0 Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited. ^{**}Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.

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